

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 98-576-S - ORDER NO. 1999-82
FEBRUARY 5, 1999

IN RE: Application of Lakewood Utilities, Inc. for) ORDER
 Approval of the Sale of the Sewer Treatment) APPROVING
 Facility to the Town of Lexington.) TRANSFER

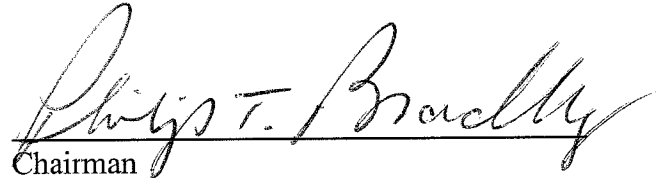
This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Application of Lakewood Utilities, Inc.(Lakewood or the Company) requesting Commission approval to sell its wastewater system to the Town of Lexington. We note that approval of this transfer will lead to a \$12.00 per month increase for residential customers. All of Lakewood's customers have been given notice of the proposed transfer and the Application therefor, and the rate increase that will result. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene have been received, however. Accordingly, counsel for Lakewood requests waiver of the hearing required by our Regulation 103-504, and that the Application be approved accordingly.

Regulation 103-504 requires that no existing public utility supply sewerage disposal to the public shall sell the utility system without first obtaining from the Commission a certificate that the sale or acquisition is in the public interest. Notice and due hearing are normally required. Regulation 103-501(3) does state that such regulations may be waived upon a showing that the waiver is in the public interest, under certain circumstances.

We believe the Regulation should be waived as to the hearing in this case. Even after full notice, no customer has protested the transfer, or moved to intervene. We also think that the requisite certificate should be granted. It is clear to us that a transfer of the Lakewood system to the Town of Lexington would be of great benefit to the system's customers, despite the potential rate increase that those customers will experience. The Town of Lexington has many years of experience in the sewer business, and can contribute much to the upkeep of the system. The requisite Certificate is hereby issued, and the transfer is approved.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)